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EXAMINER
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LOVEL, KIMBERLY M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2167

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	12/27/2006	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/790,513

Applicant(s)

UY ET AL.

Examiner

Kimberly Lovel

Art Unit

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 March 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/27/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-36 are rejected.

#### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 27 June 2005 was filed after the mailing date of the application on 1 March 2004. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

#### ***Drawings***

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: Fig 2, item 135; Fig 5B, items 513 and 514; Fig 7, item 704; Fig 8, item 802; Fig 14, item 1401; Fig 18, item 1803; Fig 25, 2505; Fig 29, item 258; and Fig 30, items 3007A, 3007I and 3011 (item 3011 is labeled as 3001 in the specification). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If

the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Claim Objections***

4. Claims 1, 14, 16, 24 and objected to because of the following informalities:

Independent claims 1, 14, 16, 24 and 34 use the acronym HTS without first defining the acronym.

Claim 16 recites the limitation "the one of the entry packets" in line 12. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. **Claims 14-16, 18-21, 23, 24, 26, 28-32, 34 and 35 are rejected under 35**

**U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US PGPub 2003/0195815 to Li et al (hereafter Li).**

**Referring to claim 14**, Li discloses computer readable media embodying a program of instructions executable by a computer program to perform a method of auditing HTS entry data for U.S. Customs data comprising

entering an entry packet [customs information] submitted by a customs broker to U.S. Customs into a database, the entry packet directed to a shipment for importation (Li: see [0027] and [0028]);

storing internal records relevant to the shipment [records 175 representing the buyers chosen classification for all the goods it imports] (Li: see [0036], lines 1-3);

providing a software user interface for comparing, at a computer terminal, the entry packet with the internal records for discrepancies (Li: see [0045]); and

generating a report [a message indicating errors] identifying one or more discrepancies between the entry packet and the internal records [indicating that the entered classification does not match the records 175 of the classification database] (Li: see [0047]).

**Referring to claim 15**, Li discloses the computer readable media of claim 14 wherein the report [message] is used to identify and correct errors relating to importation [indicating that the entered classification does not match the records 175 of the classification database and instructing the brokerage contact to resolve the difference with the personnel of the buyer] (Li: see [0047]).

**Referring to claim 16**, Li discloses a system for auditing HTS classifications, comprising:

a database [customs information system database] comprising internal records relevant to HTS classifications [set of records 175 representing the buyers chosen classifications for all the goods it imports] (Li: see [0036]);

a computer terminal [Buyer 133, Process Owner 201, Broker 155, Brokerage Contact 199] (Li: Fig 2);

a user interface [web browser] accessible from the computer terminal (Li: see [0010]); and

a software program suite [software modules related to customs information system 121] coupled to the database and to the user interface (Li: see [0026], lines 2-4 and Fig 2), the software program suite configured to:

receive electronic entry packets [entire customs filing package] (Li: see [0061], lines 4-8);

enable a user at the computer terminal to compare one of the entry packets to the internal records (Li: see [0045] and [0061]); and

enable the user to generate a report [a message indicating errors] comprising discrepancies between the one of the entry packets and the internal records [indicating that the entered classification does not match the records 175 of the classification database] (Li: see [0047], lines 1-7).

**Referring to claim 18**, Li discloses the system of claim 16 wherein the report [a message indicating errors] is used to identify [indicating that the entered classification does not match the records 175 of the classification database] and correct errors [instructing the brokerage contact to resolve the difference with personnel of the buyer] relating to importation (Li: see [0047]).

**Referring to claim 19**, Li discloses the system of claim 16 wherein the report comprises data containing a list of errors based on the identified discrepancies [the message indicates that the entered classification does not match the records 175 of the classification database] (Li: see [0047]).

**Referring to claim 20**, Li discloses the system of claim 16 further comprising a second computer terminal [process owner] through which the user interface is accessible (Li: see Fig 2).

**Referring to claim 21**, Li discloses the system of claim 20 wherein the second terminal is configured to enable a second user [process owner] to compare some of the entry packets to the internal records (Li: see [0061]).

**Referring to claim 23**, Li discloses the system of claim 16 wherein the software interface [web browser] comprises software navigational links [links on a website] (Li: see [0010] and [0039]).

**Referring to claim 24**, Li discloses an HTS classification method for auditing entry packets for U.S. Customs comprising:

inserting, using a software user interface, an entry packet into a database (Li: see [0022] and Fig 2);

comparing data in the entry packet to internal records [the records 175 of the classification database] located in the database (Li: see [0045] and [0047], lines 1-7);

identifying one or more errors between the data and the internal records (Li: see [0045] and [0047], lines 1-7); and

generating a report [message] comprising the errors (Li: see [0047], lines 1-7).

**Referring to claim 26**, Li discloses the method of claim 24 wherein the database further comprises a plurality of repositories (Li: see [0039], lines 1-5), including a repository for storing the entry packet and at least one repository for storing the internal records [Customs Information System 121] (Li: see [0039], lines 1-5).

**Referring to claim 28**, Li discloses the method of claim 24 wherein the comparing is performed by a user working for the importer [process owner] (Li: see [0061]).

**Referring to claim 29**, Li discloses the method of claim 24 wherein the report [a message indicating errors] is used to identify [indicating that the entered classification does not match the records 175 of the classification database] and correct discrepancies [instructing the brokerage contact to resolve the difference with personnel of the buyer] relating to importation (Li: see [0047]).



**Referring to claim 30**, Li discloses the method of claim 24 wherein the software user interface is accessible from a plurality of user terminals [Buyer 133, Broker 155, Brokerage Contact 199 and Process Owner 201] (Li: see [0023]).

**Referring to claim 31**, Li discloses the method of claim 24 wherein the entry packet is obtained from a customs broker [the brokerage contact is instructed to forward a copy of the entire customs filing package to the process owner] (Li: see [0061], lines 4-8).

**Referring to claim 32**, Li discloses the method of claim 24 wherein the inserting the entry packet is performed by an analyst working for the importer [personnel of the buyer] (Li: see [0022], lines 5-10).

**Referring to claim 34**, Li discloses an apparatus for auditing of HTS classification for U.S. Customs importation, comprising:

(i) a database comprising a plurality of repositories [Customs Information System 121] (Li: see [0039], lines 1-5 and Fig 2);

(ii) software user interface means [web browser] for accessing the database (Li: see [0010]) comprising

(a) input means [Terminals 133, 201, 155 and 199 and Internet 131] for entering entry packets [Customs Information] (Li: see [0027]; [0028]; and Fig 2);

(b) comparison means for comparing entry packets with internal records [records 175 representing the buyers chosen classifications for all the goods it imports] in some of the plurality of repositories (Li: see [0045]);

(c) report-generating means for creating reports [a message indicating errors] identifying inconsistencies between the entry packets and the internal records [indicating that the entered classification does not match the records 175 of the classification database] (Li: see [0047]); and

(iii) a plurality of remote terminals [Buyer 133, Process Owner 201, Broker 155 and Brokerage Contact 199] through which the software user interface is accessible by one or more users (Li: see [0010] and Fig 2).

**Referring to claim 35**, Li discloses the apparatus of claim 34 wherein reports [message] from the report-generating means are used to correct errors in importation [indicating that the entered classification does not match the records 175 of the classification database and instructing the brokerage contact to resolve the difference with the personnel of the buyer] (Li: see [0047]).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation

under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

**9. Claims 1-9 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US PGPub 2002/0120561 to Chin et al (hereafter Chin) in view of US PGPub 2003/0195815 to Li et al.**

Referring to claim 1, Chin discloses a method for HTS auditing using a software user interface and a database coupled to the software user interface using one or more layers of executable code comprising:

receiving by an importer from a customs broker an entry packet submitted to U.S. Customs, the entry packet containing information relating to a shipment for importation (see [0061]; [0076]; and [0119]); and

entering, by the importer [user], the entry packet into a first repository in the database [memory unit 16].

However, Chin fails to explicitly disclose the further limitations of consulting, by the importer, a second repository in the database, the second repository containing records relevant to a plurality of imported goods; comparing, by the importer, the entry packet in the first repository with the records in the second repository; identifying, by the importer, one or more discrepancies between the entry packet and the records; and generating, by the importer, a report identifying the one or more discrepancies between

the entry packet and the records. Li discloses a method for auditing entry packets (see abstract), including the further limitations of

consulting, by the importer, a second repository in the database, the second repository containing records relevant to a plurality of imported goods (Li: see [0045]);

comparing, by the importer, the entry packet in the first repository with the records in the second repository (Li: see [0045]);

identifying, by the importer, one or more discrepancies [the entered classification does not match the records 175 of the classification database] between the entry packet and the records (Li: see [0045] and [0047]); and

generating, by the importer, a report [a message indicating errors] identifying the one or more discrepancies between the entry packet and the records [indicating that the entered classification does not match the records 175 of the classification database] (Li: see [0047]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize the auditing method of Li to audit the entry packets of Chin. One would have been motivated to do so since importers typically face significant financial risk if any of the participants in the import process make an error (Chin: see [0022], lines 5-6).

**Referring to claim 2**, the combination of Chin and Li (hereafter Chin/Li) discloses the HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the report [a message indicating errors] is used to identify [indicating that the entered classification does not match the records 175 of the classification database] and correct errors [instructing the brokerage

contact to resolve the difference with the personnel of the buyer] relating to importation (Li: see [0047]).

**Referring to claim 3**, Chin/Li discloses the HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the software user interface comprises links [links on a website] from the first repository to the second repository (Chin: see [0019], lines 11-13).

**Referring to claim 4**, Chin/Li discloses the HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the entry packet is received by the importer from the customs broker in an electronic format [electronic form] (Li: see [0061], lines 4-8).

**Referring to claim 5**, Chin/Li discloses the HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the entry packet comprises a 7501 Customs form (Chin: see [0120], lines 1-2).

**Referring to claim 6**, Chin/Li discloses the HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the entry packet comprises a commercial invoice for the imported goods (Chin: see [0030], lines 7-9).

**Referring to claim 7**, Chin/Li discloses the HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the entry packet comprises a shipping manifest [manifest] (Chin: see [0117] and [0124]).

**Referring to claim 8**, Chin/Li discloses the HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the comparing the entry packet with the records comprises comparing HTS classifications assigned by the customs broker to HTS classifications stored in a product dictionary in the second repository (Li: see [0061]).

**Referring to claim 9**, Chin/Li discloses the HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the comparing the entry packet with the records comprises comparing attribute classifications assigned by the customs broker to attribute classifications located in the second repository (Li: see [0061]).

**Referring to claim 11**, Chin/Li discloses the HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the report [message] comprises data containing a list of errors based on the identified discrepancies [the message indicates that the entered classification does not match the records 175 of the classification database] (Li: see [0047]).

**Referring to claim 12**, Chin/Li discloses the HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the entry packet comprises a Customs 7501 form (Chin: see [0120], lines 1-2), a commercial invoice (Chin: see [0030]), and a shipping manifest [manifest] (Chin: see [0117] and [0124]).

**Referring to claim 13**, Chin/Li discloses the HTS audit method of claim 1 wherein the identifying the one or more discrepancies is performed by a second user [process owner] in a supervisory position over the importer [buyer] (Li: see [0047]).

**10. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US PGPub 2002/0120561 to Chin et al in view of US PGPub 2003/0195815 to Li et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of US PGPub 2003/0163447 to Sandman (hereafter Sandman).**

Referring to claim 10, Chin/Li discloses classification records. However, Chin/Li fails to explicitly disclose the further limitation of wherein the records are organized in a decision tree database. Sandman discloses classification records [HTSUS] (see [0028]), including the further limitation wherein the records are organized in a decision tree database [decision tree 130] (see [0036] and Fig 1) since a decision tree provides a tool for easy classification of imported items, which does not require any knowledge of the HTSUS by the end user.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to organize the records disclosed by Chin/Li in a decision tree database as disclosed by Sandman. One would have been motivated to do so since a decision tree provides a tool for easy classification of imported items, which does not require any knowledge of the HTSUS by the end user (Sandman: see [0032], lines 1-3), therefore decreasing errors in classification of items.

**11. Claims 17, 27, 33 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US PGPub 2003/0195815 to Li et al as applied respectively to claims 16, 26, 24 and 34 above, and further in view of US PGPub 2003/0163447 to Sandman (hereafter Sandman).**

Referring to claim 17, Li discloses internal classification records. However, Li fails to explicitly disclose the further limitation of wherein the internal records are organized in a decision tree database. Sandman discloses classification records [HTSUS] (see [0028]), including the further limitation wherein the internal records are organized in a decision tree database [decision tree 130] (see [0036] and Fig 1) since a decision tree provides a tool for easy classification of imported items, which does not require any knowledge of the HTSUS by the end user.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to organize the records disclosed by Li in a decision tree database as disclosed by Sandman. One would have been motivated to do so since a decision tree provides a tool for easy classification of imported items, which does not require any knowledge of the HTSUS by the end user (Sandman: see [0032], lines 1-3), therefore decreasing errors in classification of items.

Referring to claim 27, Li discloses classification records located in at least one repository. However, Li fails to explicitly disclose the further limitation of wherein one of the at least one repository comprises a decision tree database of HTS classifications. Sandman discloses classification records [HTSUS] (see [0028]), including the further limitation wherein one of the at least one repository comprises a decision tree database



of HTS classifications [decision tree 130] (see [0036] and Fig 1) since a decision tree provides a tool for easy classification of imported items, which does not require any knowledge of the HTSUS by the end user.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to organize the records disclosed by Li in a decision tree database as disclosed by Sandman. One would have been motivated to do so since a decision tree provides a tool for easy classification of imported items, which does not require any knowledge of the HTSUS by the end user (Sandman: see [0032], lines 1-3), therefore decreasing errors in classification of items.

**Referring to claim 33**, Li discloses internal classification records. However, Li fails to explicitly disclose the further limitation of wherein the internal records are organized in an internal-to-commodity map. Sandman discloses classification records [HTSUS] (see [0028]), including the further limitation wherein the internal records are organized in an internal-to-commodity map [decision tree 130 which is organized based on a importers needs] (see [0036] and Fig 1) since a decision tree provides a tool for easy classification of imported items, which does not require any knowledge of the HTSUS by the end user.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to organize the records disclosed by Li in a decision tree database as disclosed by Sandman. One would have been motivated to do so since a decision tree provides a tool for easy classification of imported items, which does not require any

knowledge of the HTSUS by the end user (Sandman: see [0032], lines 1-3), therefore decreasing errors in classification of items.

**Referring to claim 36**, Li discloses internal classification records. However, Li fails to explicitly disclose the further limitation of wherein the internal records are organized in a decision tree database. Sandman discloses classification records [HTSUS] (see [0028]), including the further limitation wherein the internal records are organized in a decision tree database [decision tree 130] (see [0036] and Fig 1) since a decision tree provides a tool for easy classification of imported items, which does not require any knowledge of the HTSUS by the end user.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to organize the records disclosed by Li in a decision tree database as disclosed by Sandman. One would have been motivated to do so since a decision tree provides a tool for easy classification of imported items, which does not require any knowledge of the HTSUS by the end user (Sandman: see [0032], lines 1-3), therefore decreasing errors in classification of items.

**12. Claims 22 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US PGPub 2003/0195815 to Li et al as applied respectively to claims 16 and 24 above, and further in view of US PGPub 2002/0120561 to Chin et al.**

**Referring to claim 22**, Li discloses entry packets. However, Li fails to explicitly disclose the further limitation wherein the entry packets comprise a Customs 7501 form, a commercial invoice and a shipping manifest. Chin discloses entry packets, including the further limitation wherein the entry packets comprise a Customs 7501 form (Chin: see [0120], lines 1-2), a commercial invoice (Chin: see [0030], lines 7-9), and a shipping manifest [manifest] (Chin: see [0117] and [0124]) since these are examples of standard U.S. Customs forms required in order to import goods into the U.S..

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize the entry packets disclosed by Chin as the entry packets of Li. One would have been motivated to do so in order to import goods into the U.S., since Customs 7501 form, a commercial invoice, and a shipping manifest are standard US Customs forms.

**Referring to claim 25**, Li discloses entry packets. However, Li fails to explicitly disclose the further limitation wherein the entry packet comprises a Customs 7501 form. Chin discloses entry packets, including the further limitation wherein the entry packet comprises a Customs 7501 form (Chin: see [0120], lines 1-2) since this form is a standard U.S. Customs form required in order to import goods into the U.S..

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize the entry packets disclosed by Chin as the entry packets of Li. One

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would have been motivated to do so in order to import goods into the U.S., since Customs 7501 form, a commercial invoice, and a shipping manifest are standard US Customs forms.

### ***Conclusion***

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- US PGPub 2002/0095355 to Walker et al titled "Computer-Implemented International Trade System" which discloses a third party service reviewing all product classifications conducted by buyers and sellers.
- US PGPub 2005/0075955 to Milovina-Meyer et al titled "Order Fulfillment Architecture having an Electronic Customs Invoice System."

**Contact Information**


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimberly Lovel whose telephone number is (571) 272-2750. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on (571) 272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Kimberly Lovel  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2167

20 December 2006  
kml

  
JOHN COTTINGHAM  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
ELECTRONIC BUSINESS CENTER 2100

hlu